

HOUSE BILL 2992

By Chumney

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37; Title 49 and Section 71-3-530, relative to abuse and neglect investigations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-530, is amended by deleting the second sentence of subdivision (a)(1) and by substituting instead the following:

The department of human services and the department of education shall report immediately all allegations of abuse or neglect in any child welfare agency or other entity that either may license, certify or approve to the department of children's services for investigation and shall cooperate with the department of children's services in any investigations of abuse or neglect involving any such agency.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-530, is further amended by deleting the words "The departments of children's services and human services shall utilize" at the beginning of the only sentence of subitem (a)(2)(A) and by substituting instead the language "During the course of and after any investigation, the department of children's services shall share with the department of human services and department of education".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-530(a)(2)(A), is further amended by adding the words "or other entity" after the words "welfare agency" and before the words "which they".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-530, is further amended by adding the words "department of education and the" before the words "department of human" in both locations where such words appear in subitem(a)(2)(B).

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-530(a)(2)(B), is further amended by adding the following:

(iv) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, including any related to expunction of public records under Title 40, the limited release of confidential records pursuant to this part shall not alter the confidential character of such records, which shall be maintained, as necessary, to protect children.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-612(a), is amended by adding the words "Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5," after the words "authorized by" and before the words "the provisions".

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.